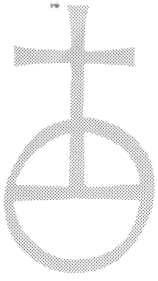


Stem Cell file
JUN 23 2005



PENNSYLVANIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

223 North Street • Box 2835 • Harrisburg, PA 17105 • (717) 238-9613 • FAX (717) 238-1473

June 21, 2005

The Honorable Thomas A Tangretti
House Post Office
The Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Tangretti:

Lately, the subjects of stem cell research and human cloning have received a good deal of national attention. Legislative proposals dealing with various aspects of these issues have been offered at both the state and federal levels. For instance, legislation has been introduced in the Pennsylvania House that would specifically authorize human cloning and embryonic stem cell research here in Pennsylvania. This bill would also require the repeal of a portion of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act, which currently prohibits non-therapeutic experimentation on unborn children. The Catholic Church strongly opposes this bill.

We believe that there is a great deal of confusion regarding these issues, and that the confusion has arisen from mostly incomplete reporting. In fact, it is not true that the Catholic Church opposes all stem cell research. The Church actually supports ethical research using adult stem cells, including research on stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood and placentas. (These are rich sources of easily accessible stem cells, which are currently being used to treat human diseases.) The Church only opposes embryonic stem cell research, which necessarily involves the killing of new human beings at the embryonic stage of their lives.

In light of the above legislative activity and the existing confusion, you will need to have the facts relating to stem cell research and cloning in order to make truly informed decisions on these important subjects. Enclosed is an Op-Ed by Cardinal Justin Rigali published on Sunday, June 19, 2005 in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Also enclosed are two brief one-pagers discussing stem cell research and cloning.

I hope you will find this information helpful. In a few weeks, I will be sending you a booklet developed by the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania that delineates the Catholic Church's position on this rapidly developing technology. With clear information, the Church believes Pennsylvania policy makers will be led to sound conclusions on relevant legislative proposals that respect life.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this material.

Sincerely,

Robert J. O'Hara, Jr.
Executive Director

enclosures

MIKE VEON
DEMOCRATIC WHIP



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

APR 27 2005

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April 26, 2005

The Honorable Thomas Tangretti
House of Representatives
328 Irvis Office
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0001

Dear The Honorable Thomas Tangretti:

If we do not act soon, some of Pennsylvania's high-tech, high-paying research and bio-medical businesses and industries may soon be leaving to set up shop in California, Wisconsin, or any of the other states that are taking steps to promote and expand stem-cell research. I understand this is a very difficult and controversial issue so I welcome thorough discussions with my colleagues.

Stem-cell research is the key to finding cures for many devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer. Because of President Bush's unfortunate and (I believe) wrong decision to limit public funding by the national government, it is clear that it has now become the responsibility of each state to fund this important research. States like California, Wisconsin, and – most recently – Massachusetts have all taken considerable steps toward supporting stem-cell research, and I believe that Pennsylvania must do the same.

Public and private support is growing, but we must move quickly to make sure that Pennsylvania stays at the forefront of this effort to save lives and promote high-tech, high wage jobs. I have attached an article from Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer that supports efforts in New Jersey.

I have sent letters to Governor Codey and legislative leaders in New Jersey and to Governor Rendell to promote our efforts and to ask for support. I believe that we must stand together to do the best possible job promoting and expanding our research and development efforts, and I am confident that with your support Governors Codey and Rendell would be even more receptive to a multi-state effort. Our legislative efforts would stand a much greater chance of success of course with your support.

We have some of the greatest research hospitals and bio-tech companies in the world here in Pennsylvania. But if we do not take action soon, those companies and those jobs will go to states where the research environment is more supportive.

I have recently called for a commitment to stem-cell research here in Pennsylvania. My proposal creates a \$500 million bond initiative, disbursed at \$100 million per year, to fund stem-cell research and also creates the Pennsylvania Stem Cell Research Council, which would be responsible for the establishment of research standards, review of grant applications and the disbursement of research funds. In addition to these measures, my proposal also specifically creates the authority to partner with other states, such as New Jersey and Delaware, to establish an interstate stem-cell research compact.

I am sure that you understand that, alone, neither Pennsylvania nor New Jersey can financially compete with California on this front and therefore I am very interested in working together through an interstate stem-cell research compact. I stand ready to assist you in any way possible to ensure that Pennsylvania remains a leader in this vital medical research.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MIKE" in a stylized, cursive font. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Michael R. Veon
Democratic Whip
14th Legislative District
PA House of Representatives

BRIAN ELLIS, REPRESENTATIVE

ROOM 162A EAST WING
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

March 17, 2005

Dear Neighbor,

I am writing today because a powerful leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is pushing to use \$500 million of our tax dollars to fund embryonic stem cell research. As you know, this type of research destroys innocent human life by killing a live embryo. While President Bush has already shut off federal funding of this anti-life procedure, we need to do the same in Pennsylvania:

- Embryonic stem cell research contradicts our pro-life values and has been widely condemned by ethicists and religious leaders. Our tax dollars should not be used for immoral medical procedures.
- Despite the hype, embryonic stem cells have little proven value in curing diseases. In contrast, pro-life methods involving adult stem cells and umbilical cord stem cells are already saving patients with juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injury, and other life-threatening conditions (Washington Post, 2/2/05; www.usccb.org).
- In addition to these moral concerns, the proposal would raise the cost of healthcare in Pennsylvania by adding a new tax to medical equipment as part of the stem cell funding scheme.

I hope you will join me in fighting against this \$500 million assault on our values. In order to stand up for life, we need to make our voices heard. Please return the enclosed petition so I can present our views to the leaders in Harrisburg. I appreciate your concern about the stem cell issue and look forward to serving as your representative in these debates.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Ellis

Brian Ellis
State Representative
11th Legislative District

Petition to Governor Edward G. Rendell and Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly

Whereas it is morally wrong and fiscally imprudent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to expend public funds on embryonic stem cell research, and

Whereas embryonic stem cell research has been condemned by leading ethicists and religious leaders for destroying innocent human life, and

Whereas other forms of research that do not destroy life—such as adult stem cell and cord blood stem cell research—have proven far more beneficial to patients in clinical studies, and

Whereas the proposal to spend \$500 million on embryonic stem cell research includes a tax increase on medical supplies, and therefore makes quality healthcare more expensive and inaccessible to the people who need it most, and

Whereas we share an ardent belief with a majority of Pennsylvanians that policymakers should strive to protect life from conception until natural death,

We the Undersigned do Hereby Petition Governor Edward G. Rendell and members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to oppose tax-funded embryonic stem cell research that destroys human life.

Signed,

Your Name

Brian L. Ellis

Brian L. Ellis, State Representative

Please Return to: Brian Ellis, Chesapeake Place Suite 200, Lyndora, PA 16045

MAR 17 2005

JERRY BIRMELIN, CHAIRMAN
HOUSE PRO LIFE CAUCUS
41 EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
TELEPHONE: (717) 783-2037



HOUSE TASK FORCE ON CLONING/
STEM CELL RESEARCH

RICHARD T. GRUCELA,
CO-CHAIRMAN
G-01 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

JERRY A. STERN,
CO-CHAIRMAN
201 RYAN OFFICE BUILDING
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TELEPHONE: (717) 787-9020

Memo

To: Pro-Life Legislators
From: Rep. Rich Grucela
Rep. Jerry Stern *JAS*
Date: March 14, 2005
Re: Stem Cell Research

Recently, stem cell research has come back into the spotlight as a matter of discussion in the media and in the General Assembly. In an effort to help the members of the Assembly better understand this complex issue, the House Pro-Life Caucus has formed a Task Force on Cloning & Stem Cell Research.

The Task Force will be chaired by Rep. Rich Grucela and Rep. Jerry Stern and will be providing you with important information about this emerging issue. This memo is the first of several that you will receive which will supply you with the information needed to help you make educated and responsible decisions.

The attached brochure, written by an expert in the field, clarifies one of the most important distinctions concerning stem cell research, that of embryonic stem cell research vs. adult stem cell research. We encourage each of you to take the time to read this brochure and begin to understand more about this important subject.

The Pro-Life Caucus supports adult stem cell research. Adult stem cells can be found in almost any part of the human body, including skin, fat, bone marrow, baby teeth, and a newborn's umbilical cord or placenta. No one has to die to retrieve adult stem cells. However, the destruction of human embryos for scientific experimentation or the creation of human embryos to be destroyed for research is an assault on the sanctity of human life and the dignity of man. For this reason, the Pro-Life Caucus will actively oppose any efforts to fund or legalize embryonic stem cell research.

We trust you will find the enclosed brochure to be both interesting and informative. Please feel free to contact one of us for additional information about this topic.

DAN B. FRANKEL, MEMBER
23RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
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VICE CHAIR



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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LAW

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COMMONSENSE FIREARMS SAFETY CAUCUS,
CO-CHAIR
PA LEGISLATIVE COAL CAUCUS
PA FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICE
RENEWABLE ENERGY CAUCUS
STEEL CAUCUS

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members
From: Representative ~~Dan~~ Frankel
Date: March 24, 2005
RE: Legislation Regarding Stem Cell Research

In the near future, I will be introducing two companion bills that would provide funding for stem cell research.

1. Specifically, the first bill would provide for a ballot referendum authorizing the state to borrow \$250 million to fund stem cell research for a period of ten years. This bill would also establish a Bureau of Stem Cell Research within the Department of Health to administer a grant and loan program that would provide funding to educational and research institutions for the purpose of conducting stem cell research.

In addition, a Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee would be established to review the Bureau's responsibilities and respond to issues referred to the Committee regarding the Bureau's activities. The Committee would be made up of physicians, patients' rights advocates, medical ethicists, and scientists.

Furthermore, this legislation would prohibit funding for human reproductive cloning research and require that human embryonic stem cells used for research be derived only from embryos donated from public or private fertility clinics.

2. Under the second bill, the Tax Reform Code of 1971 would be amended to include cigars and smokeless tobacco under the current cigarette tax. Revenue from the tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco would be used to pay back the money borrowed to administer the stem cell research grant and loan program.

If you would like to co-sponsor one or both of these measures, please contact Tracy Kocher at 705-1875 or via e-mail at tkocher@pahouse.net.

JERRY BIRMELIN, CHAIRMAN
HOUSE PRO LIFE CAUCUS
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HOUSE TASK FORCE ON CLONING/
STEM CELL RESEARCH

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE JERRY STERN *JAS*
REPRESENTATIVE RICH GRUCELA *RG*

DATE: May 4, 2006

SUBJECT: Adult Stem Cell Research vs. Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Recently a memo was sent to all House Members from Representative Babette Josephs informing us of legislation recently passed in Maryland on stem cell research, committing 15 million in state dollars.

In Pennsylvania, House Bill 864, introduced by Representative Josephs, establishes cloning for embryonic stem cell research. Once cloned, embryos would be destroyed for research purposes. This bill would also repeal the section of the Abortion Control Act that prohibits experimentation of live human embryos.

We must carefully examine the difference and the results between these two types of stem cells. **Adult stem cells** are superior to embryonic stem cells. **Adult stem cells** have successfully been used on human persons to treat over 65 conditions including brain and many other cancers; multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, sickle cell anemia, stroke, limb gangrene, corneal regeneration, heart damage, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injury.

Embryonic stem cells have not been used to treat one person! An interesting article published by Dr. David A. Prentice, an affiliated scholar for the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University Medical Center, related a story about Dennis Turner's Parkinson's disease that became so severe by 1999 that he could not use his right arm. That was the year he underwent an experimental treatment with his own brain adult stem cells. "Soon after having the cells injected, [he testified before the U.S. Senate in 2004] his Parkinson's symptoms began to improve," "His trembling grew less and less, until to all appearances it was gone."

Page 2

Laura Dominquez testifying at the same hearing told of her spinal cord injuries showing improvement. She told of regaining feeling and movement after treatment with her own nasal adult stem cells.

Why are the proponents of embryonic stem cell research silent on the success of adult stem cells? With the recent scandal centered on research and questioning of ethics revolved around Korean researcher H Wang Woo-Suk in the news, why are we proposing the use of tax dollars for something that is not proven and raises ethical and moral and political considerations?

We have attached several news articles that will give you insight of adult stem cells in treatment of stroke and cerebral palsy. The article entitled, ***Live patients and dead mice*** by Dr. David Prentice pretty well sums up the success of adult stem cells vs. the failure of embryonic stem cell research.

Attachment

JAS/Ilwm